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NOTES AND NEWS

The question of free meals for school children, raised this last year in New York, is being widely and vitally considered. The *Economic Review* of London gives an article in its last number to the problem, treating it, as might be expected from a broader philosophic point of view. The author sees in the demand a reaction against nineteenth-century individualism.

He is not prepared to say how far this reaction may lead but thinks free clothing and even more direct participation in the child's support on the part of the state may be the outcome—an outcome to which he has no great objection.

Several interesting facts concerning the history of the high school are brought out by an article in the *Journal of Education*, December 26, 1907, by Mr. W. E. Hatch. Seventy-five years ago, he says, there were but three high schools in the country. At the close of the Civil War there were about 150, while today there are over 7,000. Thus the high school is an exceedingly modern institution, with curricula broader than those of many colleges of even thirty years ago.

And now the Denver Board of Education has taken action on the subject of fraternities. It has issued a letter debaring from the privileges of the high school, "except those of the classroom and that of receiving a diploma," all students who join fraternities after the issuing of the letter, and all present members who do not give up their membership before the beginning of the next school year. This letter is published in the *Journal of Education* for December 19.

Several experiments in more flexible grading of schools are being tried in American cities. Worcester, St. Louis, Elizabeth, N. J., are all mentioned in the December number of *Education* as having made advance along this line. Cambridge has for thirteen years classified its grammar schools on a very flexible plan, with the result that 7 per cent. completed the course in four years, while only 15 per cent. used as many as seven years for the work. A year's trial of flexible grading in the Lawrence High School has resulted in reducing the number of failures at the end of the first half-year over 50 per cent. What is even more remarkable, while the pupils in the fast classes cover much more ground than hitherto, the pupils in the slow classes cover about as much as before and do it better.

For over a year a committee has been engaged in investigating the health of girls in secondary schools in London, and the report is commented on in the December number of the *School World*. About 15 per cent. were below

the average nutrition, and 24 per cent. were anaemic. The most striking fact seemed to be the ignorance of the ordinary elementary rules of health.

The *Craftsman* for January contains an account of an industrial training-school for deaf mutes in New York. Its aim is to give children, handicapped both by poverty and natural defect, the power to become self-supporting citizens. Many varieties of work are given in an attempt to bring out the individual talent of children who have so much less than the normal opportunity for self-expression and efficient work.

The *Outlook* describes an analogous work for blind children founded two or three years ago on East 59th Street, New York. Not only are the blind taught remunerative industries and given remunerative employment, but scientific investigations are being carried on to ascertain the causes of blindness and to devise, if possible, preventive measures.

Not the dropping of Latin, but a thorough revision of the Latin now given in secondary schools is the course recommended by E. A. Hecker in the *Educational Review* for December. He adds a scathing criticism of the present authors read, asking whether a German teacher would devote his entire second year to the campaigns of Frederick the Great, as the Latin teach-

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ers do to Caesar. He recommends a more varied course and a more interesting choice of literature as a partial solution of the problem.

The Southern Education Association, which held its annual meeting at the close of December, unanimously adopted resolutions favoring thorough elementary education for the negro, but recommending that in secondary schools emphasis be laid on industrial training. They also favor, on practical psychological grounds, the providing of negro teachers for the negro schools, which are to be segregated and given a different kind of training. The principle may be correct; it is too soon to decide to what abuses and unjust discriminations the practice may lend itself.

A special committee of the New York Board of Education is investigating corporal punishment. They have found a strong feeling among teachers of that city in favor of its revival. Only nine of the thirty-nine largest cities of the country, says the *Springfield Republican*, forbid flogging. They are, New York, Chicago, Baltimore, Jersey City, Louisville, Newark, Charleston, Syracuse, and Toledo.

Ambassador Reid's address in December to the New York Teachers' Association is causing some comment, largely adverse in character. He holds

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THE SCHOOL REVIEW

that our schools do not inculcate reverence for authority and obedience to law as do the English schools.

A protest on behalf of "men's rights" is the latest thing by Dr. G. Stanley Hall in an address in Des Moines before a state teachers' convention. "More men in the schools is the need," he declares. "The men already there are becoming feminized by lack of contact with other men."

The Western Railway Club of Chicago listened on December 18 to a paper by R. T. Crane, a millionaire manufacturer who has established several courses in manual training in the grade schools of Chicago. He feels that the technical training, so-called, does not give the desired result. "Four years in the shop is the training they need." Beyond this, "a good common-school training and a little intelligence will solve any problem arising in the factory."

San Antonio, Tex., has developed in its public schools a system of school gardens which W. T. Carter of the United States Department of Agriculture pronounces one of the finest in the country. Their produce vied at the recent San Antonio international fair with that displayed by professional gardeners. Texas is an essentially agricultural state, and the children are naturally proud of their achievements.

The plan of a nine-years' elementary course, beginning at the age of five, seems to have failed at Worcester. According to the *Springfield Republican* the special committee on curriculum recommends a change to the eight-years' course in vogue elsewhere, beginning at the age of six.

The National Congress of Mothers will hold an International Congress in Washington, D. C., March 10-17, 1898. The subject to be considered is "The Welfare of the Child." Among the speakers announced on the advance outline programme are President Roosevelt, Commissioner Brown, Hon. Charles P. Neill, Hon. Harvey W. Wiley, Hon. Ben B. Lindsey, and Dr. Luther H. Gulick.

Even in our progressive age there are not lacking extreme reactionaries in the matter of education. Bishop Canevin of Pittsburgh, so says the *Advance*, has issued a letter to the parents and guardians of his diocese, forbidding them "under pain of mortal sin to send their children to any non-Catholic school, and confessors are forbidden to absolve those who do not obey."